We claim:

1. A method of displaying a document having a bottomless-page model in
accordance with a custom layout on a computer having a display screen, an operating system
5   operating under the control of a textual mark-up engine, a textual mark-up template
document, a textual mark-up content document, the method comprising:

parsing in a tag contained in the textual mark-up template document;

determining from the tag the textual mark-up content document and a
defined subset of the display screen area; and

10   displaying content from the textual mark-up content document in the defined subset
of the display screen area.

2. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a server-
controlled method for generating a textual mark-up presentation document for presentation
15   on an output device coupled to the client system, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the client system for the presentation document;

accessing a template document containing a tag that defines a content document and
a defined area within the presentation document; and

sending the presentation document to the client system output device with the
20   defined area within the presentation document containing content from the defined content
document.

3. In a computer network comprising a server system and a client system, a client-
controlled method for generating a textual mark-up presentation document for presentation
25   on an output device coupled to the client system the method comprising comprising:

receiving a request from the client system for the presentation document;

sending a template document to the client system;

determining from a tag in the template document a network source for a content

document and a defined area within the presentation document;

obtaining the content document from the network source; and

displaying the presentation document on the output device coupled to the client

5   system with the presentation document containing content from the defined content

document within the defined area within the presentation document.

4. A computer readable medium having a template stored thereon said template

defining a layout for content to occupy, an engine capable of placing content within the

10   defined layout, the template comprising:

a tag defining a container area; and

wherein the engine upon recognizing the tag places a selected content within the

defined container area.

15   5. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up layout

template having a tag, said tag defining a layout area, the method comprising:

defining a textual mark-up document content source; and

flowing the textual mark-up language content source into the area defined by the

textual mark-up layout template defined by the tag.

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6. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up content

document, a textual mark-up customizing document, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the

method comprising:

parsing in a tag defining a container area and attributes from the textual mark-up

25   customizing document;

instantiating a container component object in response to parsing in the tag defining

the container area and attributes;

placing the container area and attributes into the container component object;

flowing the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the container area and attributes placed in the container component object;

breaking the flow of the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the container area and attributes placed in the container component object upon an indication

5 that the area defined by the container area and attributes is full; and

saving the position in the textual mark-up content document where the flow stopped.

7. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing

10 document containing a series of tags, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

parsing in a tag in the customizing document;

flowing the textual mark-up language elements of the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the tag; and

15 maintaining a record of where each such textual mark-up language element is contained within the area defined by the tag.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

flowing a textual mark-up language element into more than one of the areas defined

20 in by the series of tags in the textual mark-up customizing document; and

maintaining a chain of records of the textual mark-up language element flowed into more than one of the areas defined in by the series of tags in the textual mark-up customizing document.

25 9. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

parsing in a tag in the customizing document;

flowing the textual mark-up language elements of the textual mark-up content document into the area defined by the tag;

breaking the flow of the textual mark-up language element of the textual mark-up content document upon an indication that the area defined by the tag is full; and

5   saving the position of the flow of the textual mark-up element.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

maintaining a record of the order of the series of tags in the textual mark-up customizing document; and

10   including in the record for each such tag in the ordered series, the position where each such textual mark-up language elements flow stopped upon the indication that the area defined by the tag is full.

11. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents, a textual mark-up

15 .   content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

flowing the textual mark-up content document into a series of areas defined by the tags in the textual mark-up customizing document; and

20   instantiating for each textual mark-up language element a separate layout flow object for each area defined by the tags in the textual mark-up customizing document, in which that textual mark-up language element controls some portion of the view.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising distinguishing amongst multiple

25   separate layout flow objects for a textual mark-up language element based on a distinct context identifier assigned to each area defined by the tags in the textual mark-up customizing document.

13. A method for customizing textual mark-up documents using a textual mark-up content document containing textual mark-up language elements, a textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags and a textual mark-up parsing engine, the method comprising:

5   accessing locally the textual mark-up customizing document containing a series of tags, the tags defining a series of containers for placing a textual mark-up content document; and

accessing remotely the textual mark-up content document to be flowed into the series of defined containers.

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